

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1134

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3202

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E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJ: PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE' NEXT STEPS

1. THE AMBASSADOR RECENTLY TALKED WITH ABDULHADY TAHER, GOVERNOR OF PETROMIN, ABOUT THE RECENT PREPCON. TAHER SAID THE CONFERENCE WAS NOT A FAILURE. HE THOUGHT THE TWO SIDES WERE CLOSE UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE WHEN THE AMERICANS APPARENTLY GOT NEW INSTRUCTIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WENT BACK TO SQUARE ONE, "OR SQUARE ZERO AS SOME PUT IT". THE GROUP OF SEVEN IS AGREED, HOWEVER, TO PUSH FORWARD TO ANOTHER MEETING.

2. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO MET WITH YAMANI YESTERDAY. YAMANI SAID HE HAD HAD LONG DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND OTHER OFFICERS IN THE DEPARTMENT. HE ALSO SAID THE SECRETARY TOLD HIM THAT HE, YAMANI, SHOULD WORK OUT THE BASIS FOR A CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE WITH AMBASSADOR AKINS. YAMANI SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO DOING SO AND ASKED THAT WE MEET FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THE COMING FRIDAY, MAY 9.

3. WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE NEXT STEP? IT IS CLEAR FROM TAHER'S COMMENTS THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND THE REST OF THE GROUP OF SEVEN ARE COOPERATING TO DRAW UP A JOINT POSITION. IT WOULD THUS SEEM ADVIS-
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ABLE FOR US TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE SAUDIS; THE LATTER

WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE DURING THIS
PREPARATORY STAGE. WHAT POSITION SHOULD WE TAKE WITH
TAHER AND YAMANI? SHALL WE BEGIN TO SEEK AN AGREED
POSITION?

4. IN THIS CONTEXT WE WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE MINUTES OF
YAMANI'S MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT, BOTH THE LARGER MEET-
INGS AND THE MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY.
AKINS

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